Entry of private companies in ground handling operation

1488. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to include private companies in crucial jobs like ground handling;

(b) whether it is a fact that inclusion of the said companies will see a 70 per cent reduction in earnings of public sector airlines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, Government's approach in this regard;

(e) whether Government are reconsidering the decision of merger of both the public sector airlines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The Government have approved a new Ground Handling Policy. As per it, the following entities are eligible to undertake ground handling at—

(A) All metropolitan airports *i.e.* Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad—

(i) The respective airport operators itself or its joint venture.

(ii) Subsidiary companies of National Carriers *i.e.* Air India/Indian Airlines or their joint ventures specialized in ground handling services. Third party handling will also be permitted to these subsidiaries.

(iii) Any other ground handling service provider selected through competitive bidding by the airport operator.

(B) At all other airports, in addition to the entities mentioned above, self handling will also be permitted to the airlines.

(C) Airlines or entities presently involved in ground handling, which are not covered under the policy, enuciated in (A) and/or (B) above will not be permitted to undertake self-handling or third party handling with effect from 1.1.2009.

The relevant rules are being amended to implement the new policy.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Development of unprofitable airports

1489. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) is contemplating to develop some of the unprofitable airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of these airports; and

(c) the details of the plan formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development, improvement and modification of infrastructural facilities at unprofitable airports owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) have been taken up considering the projected traffic demand and request from airline operators, State Governments and other agencies.

Strengthening and extension of runway, construction of new integrated terminal complex, strengthening and expansion of apron, new link taxiways, expansion and modification of terminal building etc. have been taken up at airports at Trichy, Madurai and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu; Amritsar and Pathankot in Punjab; Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh; Surat, Vadodara, Bhuj and Porbandar in Gujarat; Khajuraho, Bhopal, and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh; Nagpur in Maharashtra; Mangalore and Mysore in Karnataka; Dehradun in Uttaranchal; Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir; Chandigarh; Gaya in Bihar; Silchar, Lilabari and Dibrugarh in Assam; Jaipur, Udaipur, Jaiselmer and Jodhpur in Rajasthan; Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh; Agatti